

# BLAXHALL COMMONS and OPEN SPACES CHARITABLE TRUST

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020

1. This report covers the period April 2019 to October 2020.
2. **Trustees.** Mike Livesey was appointed as a trustee with the role of Treasurer. Shane Pictor stood down from his role as a PC nominee. Karen Baker has replaced him.
3. **Gift of land opposite Shepherd's Cottage.** The trustees have met on seven occasions, once with the parish Council and once with a solicitor, to progress the land transfer arrangements. A Vesting Order has been received and Land Registry actions are awaited. The trust is very grateful to our District Councillor, Ray Herring, for support from his Enabling Fund to address the costs that go with the transfer.

#### 4. **Activities relating to the gifted land**

A year-long wildlife audit has been completed by Rodney West and colleagues. An illustrated report will be given at the next open meeting (deferred due to Covid-19).

Eleven volunteers pulled bracken in July 2020 and agreed that to manage it all, a mechanised approach may be needed. Efforts will be made to control it over the winter, when proposals for access to the site will be developed.

Asbestos removal: Four quotes have been received for the removal of asbestos in the piggeries, following an assessment by East Coast Insulations as to its management.

Fundraising: The trustees met on a number of occasions to discuss this, and the Hon Secretary attended a virtual Community Action Suffolk training day on fundraising. In the current circumstance, where most charitable funding is going to Covid-related needs, the best way forward may be Just Giving, and the trustees are working on developing this approach.

5. **Potential gift of land at Stone Common:** the trustees had a site visit in July 2020 and agreed to proceed with discussions with the donor.
6. **Planning Application:** The trust made representations concerning an application to build a house on land until recently used as an allotment on Mill Common. The application was withdrawn.
7. **Litter picks:** A litter pick took place in October 2019, but that scheduled for Spring 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19. The next litter pick is scheduled for the week beginning Saturday 17 October 2020.